

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 NIC-01 ACDA-05 /089 W
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R 170530Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1766
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1632

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,NOAF, IN, PK, US
SUBJ: VIEW FROM KABUL ON DAOUD'S INDIAN VISIT

REF: NEW DELHI 3600

1. GRATEFUL FOR EXCELLENT SUMMARY OF DAOUD VISIT CONTAINED
REFTEL, AS WELL AS OTHER DELHI REPORTS ON SAME SUBJECT. KABUL
MEDIA HAS PRINTED VIRTUALLY ALL OFFICIAL STATEMENTS VERBATIM AS
AS WELL AS SEVERAL UNOFFICIAL ONES GENERATED DURING VISIT, ALL
WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT.

2. WE ARE NOT SO MUCH STRUCK BY VEHEMENCE OF DAOUD'S STATEMENTS
IN RESPONSE TO U.S. LIFTING ARMS EMBARGO TO PAKISTAN,
AS BY THEIR BEING PROJECTED INTO VIRTUALLY EVERY
PUBLIC STATEMENT HE MADE IN INDIA.

3. INDIANS DID NOT, BY CONTRAST, APPEAR FROM REPORTS OF VISIT
TO HAVE BEEN ANXIOUS TO HOP ON AFGHAN BANDWAGON AND TAKE
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EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO CONDEMN PAKISTAN AND UNITED STATES. WE

PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY MODERATE TONE OF MRS. GANDHI'S MARCH 11
INTERVIEW WITH UPI (NEW DELHI 3523). ESPECIALLY INTERESTED
BY HER STATEMENT FAVORING "A STRONG PAKISTAN." A LINE WE HAVE
TAKEN IN TALKS WITH AFGHANS AND WILL TAKE AGAIN. HER STATE-
MENT ON AFGHANISTAN WAS SIMILARLY NON-BELLICOSE TOWARD
PAKISTAN, AND IT MAY AT SOME POINT BE LIKE MONEY IN THE
DIPLOMATIC BANK TO HAVE ON RECORD HER STATEMENT THAT INDIA WOULD
LIKETO PREVENT A SITUATION OF WAR BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND
AFGHANISTAN FROM ARISING.

4. IN SHORT WE GAINED IMPRESSION HERE THAT MRS. GANDHI "PUT
DAYLIGHT" BETWEEN INDIAN AND AFGHAN VIEWS ON PAKISTAN AND THE
U.S. NOR HAVE WE HEARD OF NOTABLE SUCCESSES OF AFGHAN EFFORTS
TO GAIN GREATER UNDERSTANDING AMONG IRANIANS OR ARABS OF
AFGHANISTAN'S HANDLINE POLICY TOWARD PAKISTAN. THIS MAY NOT
DIMINISH PRESIDENT DAOUD'S ARDOR FOR THE BALUCH AND PUSHTUN
CAUSE, BUT IT COULD SERVE TO PUT IT INTO PERSPECTIVE OF HARD
REALITIES.

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